Canalising Agency, did not import billets. Data on total import for these years are yet to be published.

(c) Production of steel within the country is being stepped up by increasing capacity utilisation and expending the existing integrated steel plants and by setting up additional steel making capacity. However, in view of the projected growth of demand some imports may continue to be necessary.

Accumulation of disproportionate Assets by the officials of collectorate of Customs (Preventive), Bombay.

2974. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some top officials of the Collectorate of Customs (Preventive), Bombay have accumulated assets disproportionate to their income;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Assistant Collector of Customs (Preventive), New Customs House, Bombay has recently purchased property and other articles worth Rs. 30 lakhs; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to make a high level inquiry into the matter and take necessary action and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) A general watch is kept by the Government and wherever necessary, appropriate action is taken. No specific case relating to any Assistant Collector of Customs has, however, come to Government's notice.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Cotton Corporation of India

2975. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Corporation of India is not earning any profits;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of profit/loss account of the Corporation for 1982-83; 1983-84 and 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The Corporation is at present incurring losses. The main reasons for the losses suffered by the Corporation are on account of the heavy interest burden on the past borrowings from the banks/Government which the Corporation had to undertake in order to make large purchases during the years of confortable cotton supply position and on account of the carrying costs of the stocks.

(c) The information is as under:—

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1982-83	25.14
1983-84	14.22
1984-85	12.15 (Provisional)

n

Consumer Price Index

2976. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1617 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1985 regarding purchasing power of the rupee and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the basis of formulating the consumer price index and to have a new formula so as to neutralise the effects of rise in cost of living for the Government employees and industrial workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the base year 1960 which is taken to determine

the consumer price index for industrial workers has lost its significance and it is high time to change the base year; and

(c) what are Government's views in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Committee on Consumer Price Index Numbers appointed by the Government in 1980 has recommended a revision of the existing base of the Index from 1960 to 1981-82 to make Series more comprehensive and realistic. The proposal to revise the index is being processed by the Ministry of Labour.

Consolidation of Labour Laws

2977. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many labour legislations are on the Statute Book and what efforts are being made to consolidate the legislations in view of the recommendations made by the National Labour Commission in its report published in 1969;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are overlapping labour legislations and also the definitions of the same work are different in different legislations; and

(c) if so, what steps Government purpose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) There are 41 Labour legislations on the Statute Book as given in the statement (*See* below). The National Commission on Labour had opined that with a view to bring about a feasible degree of simplification, and uniformity in definitions, it should be possible to integrate those enactments which cover, subjects having a common objective. Since "labour" continues to be in the concurrent list, adjustment to suit local conditions in different States will have to be allowed and also provide for the various Labour Acts having different objectives, thereby it would not be possible to have a complete consolidation of the existing legislations. However, this is a continuing exercise and necessary amendments to bring about uniformity in various Acts are made depending upon the requirements of each case. For example, as the Nationtl Commission on Labour recommended integration of the Indian Dock Workers Act, 1934 and the Dock Workers (Conditions of Service) Act, 1948, the Government had already introduced the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Bill, 1985 in the current Session of Parliament. There are no overlapping legislations on the Statute Book. Definitions of the terms such as "workmen", "wages", "establishment", etc., differ in the various Labour Acts because of different objectives for which they were enacted.

Statement

List of Central Labour Laws on the Statute Book

	Broad Headings	Names of Acts
1.	Factories	Factories Act, 1948.
2.	Mines	Mines Act, 1952.
3.	Plantations	Plantations Labour Act, 1951.
4.	Transport	(1) Indian Dock Labourers' Act, 1934. (2) Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948 (Safety, Health and Welfare aspects only). (3) Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.